

CORRESPONDENCE

March 31, 2011

City Clerk
City of Santa Barbara
735 Anacapa St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RECEIVED

2011 APR -4 PM 4:10

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

As the owner of a small residence on the west side of town I am protesting the proposed water, wastewater and trash & recycling rate increases. Unemployment is high here in Santa Barbara, gas prices are increasing daily, health care costs are up, yet income has not kept pace with these rising costs. Senior citizens have not had an increase in social security cost-of-living-adjustment in 2 years.

These proposed increases in city services are an added burden on the already strained resources of the average citizen and should be denied.

Thomas M. Woodring
1731 Pampus Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Kathryn Eden "Kate" Smith
3770 Pescadero Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
April 15, 2011

RECEIVED

2011 APR 18 PM 2:31

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

City Clerk of the City of Santa Barbara
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: PROTEST OF PROPOSED UTILITY RATE INCREASES (6-14-2011 Hearing)

Dear City Council:

I am writing to object to the proposed increases *across the board* for utilities in the city.

I note that the Trash rates are going up in part because the fees paid to the City's haulers are tied to the increase in the CPI. I am a fixed income person and my income has not increased with the CPI since 2008.

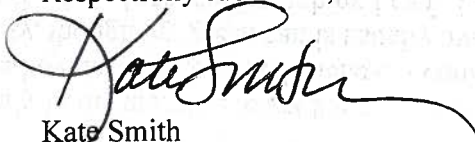
I have tried in every way to reduce my water, trash, and sewer use to the lowest level possible. I run my sprinklers manually very early in the morning to get the best result for the least amount of water and have had my system audited by the City for its efficiency. I could use a trash can ½ the size of the smallest afforded me by the City, though my green can is usually over full (and one can only have a green can as large as one's trash can). I recycle everything I can. I live alone and frugally. Despite my efforts, the City's utility bill is much higher than gas or electric and continues to be my largest outlay each month after pro-rated property taxes.

The increases you are suggesting are mammoth for these difficult times: 3.5% in water, 4% for sewer and 6.09% for trash. Look, you need to budget, that is, set aside money and save for upcoming infrastructure costs. If you are operating at a loss, again, look at expenditures and trim them. I can't raise my income to deal with your rising fees, rising gasoline, rising food prices. In fact, my income continues to decline due to low interest rates on what savings I do have.

The point is, I do have savings in case my roof blows off or my heater explodes. I look to what costs may come up and then save for them. Every financial planner in the world recommends this. Raising fees to deal with an inability to budget effectively is an immature way to deal with many of the issues you list to justify these increases: "fund operating costs and projects to replace and repair water mains, pumping stations, storage reservoirs, and the water treatment plant" "operating costs as well as replacement and repair of the city's aging sewer system" "cover losses in revenue stemming from the downturn in recyclable commodities." The bucks for these items should not be passed on. They stop with you. Make Due!

I know that this letter represents the opinion of hundreds of residents that did not have the opportunity to write. Please. Review and revise.

Respectfully submitted,


Kate Smith

be in line with the CIP.

Mike Thompson
320 CANYON DRIVE
Santa Barbara, CA. 93105

PS: I have been trying to conserve water, but it only results in you raising the rates each year. When do homeowners get a break???

City of Santa Barbara,

4-17-11

I am strongly opposed to the proposed increases in utility rates.

You increased the rates last year and incrementally before that.

The average homeowner cannot afford these constant increases to our utility rates.

We are not receiving increases in our personal income to keep up with these rate increases.

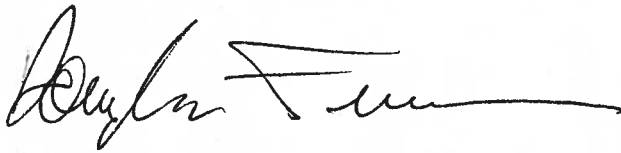
I strongly protest these proposed increases in utility rates. This year only a 10% increase in each of the 3 utilities should be allowed. This would ↑

Dear City Council,

I am writing to you to protest the proposed rate increases in both the "water and waste water" rates and the "trash, recycling, & greenwaste" rates. The rate increases have been disproportionate in growth when compared to my other utility bills; the rate is climbing too fast.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter.

Santa Barbara City Resident
Douglas Furse
3914 Maricopa Dr.
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas Furse", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

4-12-11

RECEIVED
APR 10 2011
FINANCE

We oppose all of
the proposed increases
to our utility rates.

It is a real hardship
to people who are living
on a small income or
to all who have taken
a cut in pay.

The Gas companies give
good service, but do they
need to become richer?
Our plan

Cox cable just raised
their rates. Of course
they can, they have no
competition.

Please reconsider your
reasons for making more
money

Thank you for your
kind attention

Yours truly
Jesse Cass

J & B. Corso

33 St. Francis Way

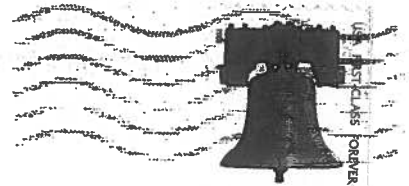
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CA 93105

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City Center S.B.

735 Anacapa St

Sta. Barbara CA

93101+2203

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4/27/2011

I OPPOSE ALL
RATE INCREASES.

Dorcas Hatlen

647 POR LA MAR

#E

SANTA BARBARA,
CA 93105

RECEIVED

MAY 02 2011

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

201 Rametto Road
Santa Barbara, Ca 93108
April 19, 2011

RECEIVED

2011 MAY -2 PM 1:19

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

City Clerk of the City of Santa Barbara
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Opposition of utility rate increases at above address

Dear City Council Members:

I am writing to notify you that I oppose the "Proposed Increase to Utility Rates" as described in the recent letter of notice for my residence at the above address. My objections are as follows:

- **Water Rates:** The proposed 3.5% increase is above the present inflation rate and is unjustified, particularly in light of the downturn in the economy. Utility rates should not be increasing faster than the rate at which citizens incomes are increasing.
- **Wastewater Rates:** The proposed 4.0% increase is above the present inflation rate and is unjustified, particularly in light of the downturn in the economy. Utility rates should not be increasing faster than the rate at which citizens incomes are increasing.
- **Trash & Recycling Rates:** The proposed 6.09% increase is above the present inflation rate and is unjustified, particularly in light of the downturn in the economy. Utility rates should not be increasing faster than the rate at which citizens incomes are increasing.

It appears to me that the above utilities are attempting to offset losses resulting from the depressed economy by charging higher rates to the residents, rather than by cutting expenses as the rest of us have had to do to make ends meet. I urge the City Council to approve rates increases on all of the utilities by not more than the present rate of inflation as defined by the CPU.

Sincerely,



Vincent Mrstik

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2011

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SANTA BARBARA, CA

May 3, 2011

To: City of Santa Barbara

Regarding: Protest increasing water rates

We received public notice for City proposed water/sewer rate increase and we are replying that we, as so many others can not afford increasing rates as you have indicated.

SB water/sewer rates are already very expensive and to increase rates further is unbearable. Water is essential, and frankly all people should be allowed water at no cost because water sustains life.

As a life sustaining natural resource for water rates to increase will cause more people into dire situations teetering on the edge. Also seems as if the City had increased water/sewer rates not long ago.

We are voicing our vote that you please do NOT increase already high Santa Barbara water/sewer rates. If you must increase rates then possibly request government subsidy.....or reduce staff. It is impossible to humanly survive without water consumption and limiting supply due to increasing costs encourages adverse health.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard and counted as NO vote on increasing City water/sewer rates.

Sincerely,



Gail and Erik Elbek

221 Quinto Street

#B

Santa Barbara, CA 93105

805-967-6845

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2011

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SANTA BARBARA, CA

May 02, 2011

City Clerk/City Council of Santa Barbara
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to you and asking that you truly re-consider raising the rates for trash pick up and city sewer service.

If I am not mistaken, you raised the rates last year. I am 81 years old and I don't even get a raise in Social Security. I am asking you to truly look at your budget, your outlay, and your trash collectors. I was on the bus the other day and heard a young woman talking to her friend, in front of me. I heard her laugh and tell her friend that her husband was able to get a lot of overtime as a trash collector. She laughed and said they knew how to do it.

One thing most of us have learned over the years is this: The right hand does not always know what the left hand is doing. I just heard on the news that Los Angeles has been made aware, by an investigative reporter, that their employees have totally abused the company car to the point where one woman has been fired. They have been taking these cars to lunch, their children to school, their husbands to work, etc. All of this on the County because they supply the car and the gas. I have found that the younger employees were not as wedded to the truth as those of us who grew up in a different time. For one thing, we were deathly afraid of losing our jobs and we did not have a union behind us fighting for us. I also feel we were raised to be more honest.

If employees feel no one is paying attention by questioning over time, they will feel free to push the button because all of them can use more money in their pay check. Overtime is much higher an hour so the outlay for this is much higher than just hiring an additional worker. In the case of trash pick-up, I only see 3 or 2 people on the truck so it would be hard to add another employee.

I truly suggest you check to see that the money you do get is being used honestly, correctly, and with very good judgment. Please do not raise this until you do a good job of seeing if you are doing the best job and the most prudent. Make sure you check that all overtime is legit. Someone needs to watch the store in this day and age.

Sincerely,

Ardith L. Lierke

May 24, 2011

The Honorable Mayor Helene Schneider
City of Santa Barbara
P. O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

RE: Utility Rate Increases (Water, Sewer, Trash)

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

Upon receipt of the City's Notice of Public Hearing of the Proposed Increase to Utility Rates that will be held on June 14, 2011 in Council Chambers, I carefully reviewed the Notice with considerable skepticism. Having just paid my most recent bill to the City for the above services, and recalling that the bill was consistently running higher every month without any significant changes to warrant the increases, my reaction to the Notice could not be termed positive.

In adding the proposed percentage increases, I noted with some alarm that the total amount of increase to the Santa Barbara rate payers is a considerable **13.59% increase**. After venting over what I term to be an outrageous one-time increase (there's nothing standing in the way for another rate increase next year), I decided to dig a little further, in particular into the water rate increase.

In speaking with your Water Department Manager, I verified that "yes" my recall was correct in that for the past five (5) years there had been a water rate increase along with a sewer rate increase. The excuse that Federal and State laws can change, that inevitably require passing on the additional expense to the rate payers, does not condone a **7.50% increase**. Your City Council has not in my opinion, kept "good faith" with your rate payers. You have known for five (5) years that additional rules and regulations were going to require additional expenses by both your water and sewer facilities.

Since the City is the water and sewer provider, the provision of these services is essential for the well being of the general public. Therefore, the provision of these services should rank as either being equal to public safety, or a very close second. The rate payers and the City have no other immediate options to obtain these services from a different provider.

As to the trash and recycling rate increases, I have several questions. Why is the City the billing vendor for the entities that it has negotiated contracts with? Will it continually be a foregone conclusion that at every contract negotiation another hefty rate increase will be included? Why has your Council just recently approved the hiring of a Recycling Specialist at \$100,000 plus benefits?

Your Council needs to recast all three of these utilities in a different light. It would seem that in the past, you're and former Councils have been rather cavalier in their consideration of how your water and sewer rates truly affect your rate payers. With many homeowners now facing bills of over \$100 per month (including trash), and numerous of these owners and occupants on fixed incomes, these utility rates are on their way to being truly unaffordable.

Your Notice states that the proposed trash rate increases are a result of the City's contractual obligations to the contracted hauler. Since the City led the negotiations, then it's time

Page 2

Utility Rate Increases

that the City rethinks its contracts and enter renegotiations. The rate increase proposed is absurd. Whoever negotiated your trash contracts, resulted in "cost, plus contracts", whereby the rate payers bear all of the risk, and the trash hauler passes through all fees and costs! Also, the City needs to stop being the billing vendor for your trash haulers and their bill needs to be totally divorced from your water and sewer bills.

Council, the provision of clean and fresh water to your constituents is not an option or choice. It is a primary service provided by your Council. The provision of sewer services is not an option or a choice, and is also a primary service. You must now think in totally different terms as to the funding and delivery of these essential services. You must now start budgeting for the continuing escalation in new rules and regulations, or, you must begin to politically engage the activists who are never satisfied until we arrive at a zero-sum result, which is still never good enough!

I stand in absolute opposition to these proposed rate hikes!

Respectfully,

Janice L. Evans

Past President, R.I.T.A. (Research Issues and Take Action)

Past President, Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association

Phone/Fax: 805-966-0720

E-mail: janicevans@verizon.net

To: City Council of Santa Barbara
735 Anacapa St.

RECEIVED

2011 JUN -2 PM 1:01

Re: Opposed to Proposed increase in utility rates on June 14, 2011

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

City council members,

I like to hereby give my opposition to proposed rate increase. Some of us in the city are living on bear minimum, paycheck to paycheck. I have worked for Santa Barbara City college for 10 years and not even I got my annual Consumer price index adjustment but have actually getting less and less in last three years. The price of Gas have increased more than 300%, my share of Healthcare premium has gone up 200%, food prices are going up everyday and banks are raising fees and interests, and my college kids tuition is skyrocketing. I have been cutting on everything that I could like my cable tv, have lowered my thermostat, scootering to work and thinking about cutting my phone line also. Plus my wife cannot find a job for last year.

I cannot afford any more increase in anything, because I am living on bear minimum now. I cannot see in this dire economy that people are struggling, how you are asking for more money, plus put a **cap on increase for people that use more sewer, so the riches of Santa Barbara would pay maximum of \$1.4 in increase for their mansion and I have to pay same for my 1100 S/f house? I suppose a \$1,4 increase would be nothing for Exxon CEO that makes in one day more than I make in a year or 365 days, but for me is very high.**

Here is my proposal:

If you must make the extra money, charge people that use more, put a baseline for necessity like 6 (hfc/mnt) for single family with no increase whatsoever, and charge your increase on anything above that. Then some of us don't have to pay more for their neighbors watering their 10 acres of landscape and are never home. Lets be more realistic for most of the people in Santa Barbara a 5-10 dollars increase mean cutting in other expenditure, like supporting other small businesses, which in turn would have a bigger effect in our city economy.

Thank you for listening,

Behzad Masooman
507 Conejo Rd.
Santa Barbara, Ca 93103
805-252-2728

City of Santa Barbara,

RECEIVED

6/5/11

2011 JUN -8 PM 4: 35

This letter is in response to the *Notice of Public Hearing* in regard to the *Proposed Increase to Utility Rates*. I felt the need to express my views on the topic.

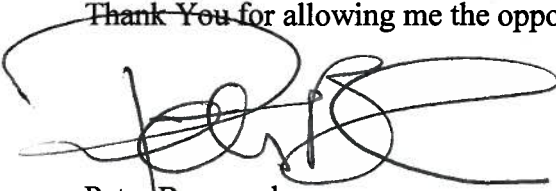
I moved into Santa Barbara and purchased a house just this year. Within 6 months my bills will be increasing. And to add to that displeasure is the fact that the percentage rates the city wants to increase my bills will be more than the cost of living increase that I received this year.

I was one of the fortunate people this year. I retained my employment, and I actually received a 2% increase over last year's wages. Not all citizens are that lucky in today's economy.

To reiterate, it seems a bit wrong, in these bad financial times, for the bills of Santa Barbarians to be increased more than the cost of living increases that most of us are receiving... 2% raise versus 3.5%, 4%, and 6.09% service fees (water, wastewater, trash/recycling).

I'm of the opinion that my thoughts on such matters (governmental) really don't matter. I've learned, time and time again, that government will do what it will, regardless. But at least I'll be able to tell myself that I didn't just stand idly by.

Thank You for allowing me the opportunity to express myself,



Peter Brummel
929 West Islay Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101